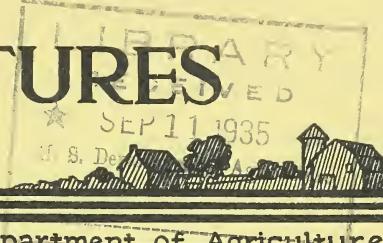


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# SHORTS & FEATURES



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## ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS ADVANCE SOIL-EROSION CONTROL CROPS

The recent dust storms and violent floods have made the nation conscious of the tremendous loss to the soil through erosion. Great as the damage is from these violent agencies, a far greater loss takes place unobtrusively through the general sheet erosion of the surface soil of our cultivated lands.

The Soil Conservation Service estimates that where plowed crops are grown continuously the valuable surface layer is being removed by erosion in from seven to seventy-five years, according to the slope and character of the soil and the rainfall. With this top layer gone the farmer becomes a subsoil farmer, with the productivity of his soil reduced from two to forty times.

Every year erosion removes from our fields approximately twenty times as much plant food as is removed in harvesting crops. Already thirty-five million acres of formerly cultivated land, equivalent to 220,000 one hundred and sixty-acre farms, have been permanently destroyed from crop production in this country, mostly by gullies, and approximately 125,000,000 acres of the 350,000,000 acres now in cultivation have lost all or the principal part of the original productive surface soil chiefly through sheet washing.

The best corrective of this great source of loss is the increase in the acreage of legumes and grasses, whose top and root growth prevent the surface soil



from washing. The legumes, such as lespedeza, alfalfa and clovers and permanent pasture and range grasses are particularly valuable in stopping erosion, increasing the humus content of the soil and conserving and improving fertility.

The foundation of America's "ever-normal granary" is her soil. To permit the continued impairment of this great national resource will greatly lessen the prosperity of future generations. The individual farmer trying to make a living on a badly eroded farm is fully aware of the disastrous effect on his personal means of livelihood from the washing away of his fertile top soil. He knows also the sad heritage that is left to his children where erosion has not been prevented.

The Adjustment Administration has placed positive emphasis on the increased acreage of erosion-preventing crops and grasses and legumes at the expense of cultivated crops produced in surplus. It is estimated that possibly an increase of eight or ten million acres in this class of crop has been achieved during the past three planting seasons. In the continuation of this program an additional twenty million acres of cultivated land devoted to grasses and legumes and trees will reduce erosion losses and improve fertility to a great degree.

The program makes use of the land taken out of production of unwanted, damaging and wasteful surplus in soil improvement and conservation. Within a relatively few years marked increase is shown in the potential power of our cultivated land, improved farming systems and increase in the profits of individual farmers through reducing the production of surplus crops. With fertility resources maintained and improved, the nation will be assured that all food needs and the needs of agricultural products for manufacturing will be far better taken care of through the adjustment program than under the wasteful system of the past.



FOOD CONSUMPTION CONSTANT  
DESPITE BOOMS AND PANICS

Consumption of food products in the United States is about the same in times of depression as in periods of prosperity. For the Country as a whole, the consumption of food products per capita was practically the same in the period 1930-33 as for the period from 1920 to 1933. Taking the entire period as 100 percent, the widest variation occurred during the prosperity period 1923-25 when the per capita consumption was about 102 percent, while in the depression period 1930-33 consumption was practically 100 percent of the average.

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13 MILLION ADJUSTMENT CHECKS  
HAVE BEEN MAILED TO FARMERS

In two years of operation the AAA had written 13 million checks to cover rental and benefit payments accruing to farmers taking part in the agricultural adjustment programs. This is an average output of 21,310 checks for each work-day during the 2-year period.

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RISING SOUTHERN FARM INCOME  
SPEEDS UP NORTHERN BUSINESS

Freight trains to the South have been longer since farm income began to rise. Carlot shipments of industrial and manufactured goods from sixteen northeastern industrial States to ten southeastern agricultural States increased 38.8 percent during the first year of the nation's farm recovery program. During the same period cash farm income in the ten southern agricultural States increased 59.9 percent.

From July 1, 1932, through June 30, 1933, before the agricultural adjustment program got under way, the four railroads' shipments of industrial commodities to the ten southeastern States totaled 2,104,585,201 pounds. From July 1, 1933 through June 30, 1934, similar shipments totalled 2,920,887,439 pounds.

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WOMEN TAKE ACTIVE PART  
IN ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS

farmer's wife a new interest.

County committeemen in charge of the various adjustment programs, report that the farm woman's aid is proving invaluable in every community, and that she is gaining useful business experience in return.

Helping to fill out contracts and gather evidence to substantiate figures on her husband's production record for hogs, wheat, or cotton; writing letters for him about puzzling details, typing contracts -- these are things she is doing as her share in the agricultural adjustment program.

In many cases, farm women are getting something more than business experience through their cooperation with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Some of them have been able to supplement the income from the farm with earnings from extra clerical jobs in the offices of the county and community committees.

Many chairmen of State committees report that the women gave outstanding voluntary cooperation during the 1935 sign-ups, handling the arrangements for many of the meetings, and attending to innumerable details that the men themselves were too busy to handle.

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WHEAT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED  
BY 1,328 LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Growers cooperating in the wheat adjustment program organized 1,328 production-control associations, which cover 1,758 counties in 37 wheat-producing states. More than 800,000 wheat growers, including farmer-operators, landlords and tenants, are members of these associations. More than 10,000 growers serve as directors and officers.

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HOG INCOME 50  
PERCENT HIGHER

Farmers in the United States received \$493,925,000 from hogs shipped and slaughtered locally in 1934 as compared with \$439,536,000 in 1932. During the calendar year 1934 farmers also received \$159,154,000 in corn and hog rental and benefit payments, bringing total cash income from hogs up to \$653,000,000, or about 28 percent above 1933, and 50 percent above 1932 hog income.

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SURVEY SHOWS WHEAT CHECKS  
AVERAGE \$176 PER CONTRACT

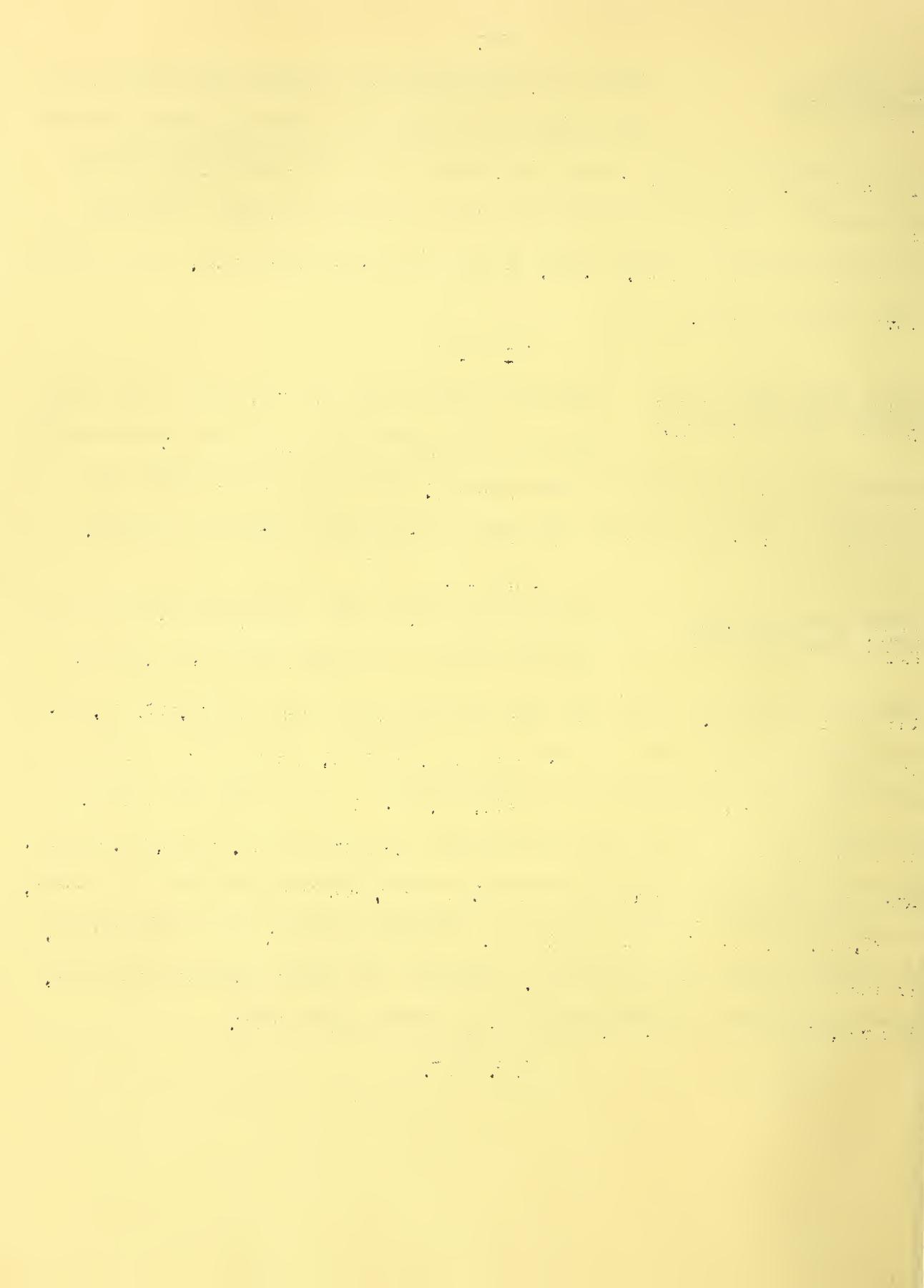
Payments to farmers for the first year of the wheat program of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration averaged \$176 for the 577,000 total contracts. Payments averaged highest in California or \$574 per contract and lowest in Wisconsin at \$34 per contract.

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INCOME INCREASES MAKE  
FARMER POTENT CUSTOMER

Gains in cash income make the farmer once more an important potential customer for a wide range of industrial products. In the 1933 crop year cash farm income was \$4,377,000,000. Cash available as a return for farmers' labor, capital, and management after deducting production expenses was \$1,473,000,000. In 1933 total cash income, including AAA rental and benefit payments had risen 20 percent, to \$5,409,000,000. Available cash beyond producing expenses, however, had increased about 72 percent, to \$2,525,000,000. In 1934 cash income, including benefits, was \$6,267,000,000, an increase of more than 40 percent. Available cash beyond production expenses, however, increased to \$3,257,000,000 or 120 percent above 1932.

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GROWERS VALUE AGREEMENT  
AT \$250,000 PER YEAR

Peach growers and shippers of western Colorado estimate that the AAA peach-marketing agreement, under which they sold a \$1,200,000 crop last season, was actually worth between \$250,000 and \$400,000 to them. The agreement made it possible to maintain prices at profitable levels. It was the first successful cooperative marketing effort in 20 years of attempts to bring together shippers and growers.

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COMMODITY LOANS  
PAY OWN EXPENSE

Loans to farmers on stored farm commodities not only made it possible for producers to gain advantages of price increases which would otherwise have been lost through forced marketing, but such loans have also paid their own way.

Through 1933 and 1934 the Commodity Credit Corporation, which handles government loans on farm commodities, made total loans of \$478,500,000 on cotton, corn, and naval stores at the low rate of 4 percent interest. At the end of 1934, all expenses in connection with administering the loans amounted to \$302,589, while net interest collections, accrued interest and other income amounted to \$1,358,436, leaving net profits of \$1,055,851.

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LARGE EXPORTS DON'T ALWAYS  
MEAN INCREASED FARM INCOME

During the period 1900-1934 there have been 7 years when cotton exports averaged more than 9,000,000 bales, and the average farm value of these exports was \$474,576,000. For 15 of the years exports were over 7,500,000 bales and returns averaged \$480,873,267. For 12 of the years exports were over 5,730,000 bales, the smallest, yet the annual return from these exports was \$559,146,917 -- or \$84,570,846 annually more than when exports were highest.

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